

VOX POP

03.06.2005

ISSUE 03

Spring Capstone Classes
Responding to AIDS
A Servant's Heart - Peru





M MARS HILL CHURCH
**meaning
beauty
truth
community**

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March 6, 2005

I'm to voxy for my pop

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Cover: Christine Francisco took this photo at the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

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What is Vox Pop?

Vox Pop, "voice of the people," is Mars Hill Church's monthly newspaper. As the 1st century Christian church grew at a supernatural rate, the written word became vital in maintaining communication and community among believers. Not only did the letters of Paul play a huge role in this process, they're in your Bible. Vox Pop is not your Bible. As Mars Hill continues to grow, however, our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will use our imperfect words to foster love between you and me and Him.



Letters to Vox Pop.

02.07.05...If you could ask if a kind Mars Hill bro or sis has picked up my blue travel mug with the Ironman Canada sticker on it, I'd love to have it back. _ I left it under my seat at the gospel class and checked the lost and found to no avail. My name and phone # are on the bottom of it. Woe is me--sorry little coffee mug,
-Ali

02.14.05...[When Pastor Mark] mentioned Capitol Hill (Gen. 20 sermon), I was way encouraged because at times it is difficult to be here, but never the less I love it and feel that God has place me here specifically. I work at Super Genius Tattoo [Capitol Hill] with some other awesome guys that love Jesus. They do a Bible study every wednesday night and it's great. It's always rad to see people walk by at night and look through the windows to see a bunch of people with Bibles open talking about how awesome Jesus is. My good friend Andrew Pac and I have recently started another bible study on Thursday night and we are excited to see Jesus work in our lives and the lives of our brothers and sisters. Andrew and I feel that we are definitely here to be a light on this hill...to every one who doesn't want to come out to Capital Hill, you should because Jesus is alive and well and doing some great things up here. And besides we need all the help we can get and this hill needs all the Christians who love Jesus to help us shine and light this place up. So if you live up here hear and want to come to the Bible study, email me at bigjollyjerm@hotmail.com. Thank you Mars Hill for sticking to the scriptures and being a great church full of great people. Late...
-Jeremy Hanson

Welcome to Mars Hill Church

To those who are new, welcome to Mars Hill; if you are a guest at one of our Sunday services, we'd love to know you better. Please take the time to fill out an information card, available in your seat or at the information desk. Drop it in the offering basket during service - if it's your first time, a little info about who you are is your offering to us - or slip it into one of the triangular information kiosks in the foyer.

Stop by our "Connect Center" – located in the SW lounge just off the main foyer – after any service for a casual introduction to our church community. For more information, sermons, essays and more visit our website at www.marshallchurch.org. If you have additional questions, please email life@marshallchurch.org.

02.21.05...We are a large congregation and that's a good thing! Since we're so big in size, we should be making a HUGE impact in the greater Seattle area. I want to know what people are doing: are you working at a food bank, spending time at the hospital, answering phones at a crisis center, taking care of an elderly neighbor, volunteering as a Big Brother/Big Sister, raising money for Children's Hospital, running marathons to help fund research or are you working alongside individuals with disabilities? Whatever the case may be, we must spur each other on. We want this community to see that we are passionate about the Lord and as a result, we are passionate about serving his people! Wouldn't it be wonderful to see someone up front every now and then discussing what it is they do to give back to their community?

-Anne Weber

Indeed God is working powerfully through our church, Anne. Mars Hill's primary mission will always be the Great Commission; the best thing we can give back to our community is to speak and demonstrate who Christ is, what He has done, and why, as our Savior, He deserves all worship. How that gets demonstrated, directly and indirectly, as we serve others at our central location, in our homes, in our neighborhoods and in our communities manifests in diverse ways. This month's Vox Pop includes an article about a Peru mission trip some Mars Hill members took last summer and another piece about how others are working to fight AIDS in Africa (next issue we'll look at members who work in the foster care and adoption systems).

For the full skinny on our church's missional heart, I recommend The Gospel Class next quarter on Wednesday nights 6:45pm starting April 6th. Moreover, transitioning from a guest of Mars Hill Church to a member affords more avenues to create those connections and exchange resources on how to get involved in your church and greater community!

- James Harleman



Photo by: Rick James

Pillar and Grits to Rock the Paradox

By Josh Wall

The year is 2003. I find myself in the midst of a crowd in front of the main stage at Irvine's Bren Events Center at the University of California. A couple bands have already played this venue on the See Spot Rock Tour. The stage is dark and a few dim, blue and purple spotlights highlight a guitarist, a bassist and a drummer who prep their gear for an energetic set. Before the crowd realizes the show is about to begin, the guitarist launches a hauntingly melodic, echoing pattern. Seconds later, the bassist and drummer join and lay a rhythm that sounds almost tribal. Only then does the lead vocalist take the stage and start resolutely into song: Here's a chance to show you how I feel, a chance for you to see it's real...

Before the stage-bouncing, guitar string-snapping, bass-thumping, eardrum-pounding hard-edged rockfest even really gets off the ground, Pillar assures the audience with the opening lyrics to their hit song, "Fireproof" (from their 2002 Flicker Records release by the same name) that everything they are about to present is utterly and completely genuine. Two years have passed and a new recording was released since and yet the group remains relentless and driven.

In 1998, the band's vocalist Rob Beckley began a personal quest to start a band in his hometown of Hayes, Kansas. Once the group was formed, their persistence

became evident; they were playing shows on a full-time basis without the aid a record label. A short time later, the group moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where they sent out demos to local radio and were signed by Flicker Records. In 2001, the label produced Pillar's first album, *Above*. Quickly, the album took to the airwaves and earned the group their first Dove Award. It was with their second album, *Fireproof*, however, with which they truly made a name for themselves. They established themselves in stores and on tours that they could play with the big dogs of the metal scene. Having performed alongside bands like Korn, Slipknot, Evanescence, Sevendust, Project 86, Chevelle and Powerman 5000, the band drops a nu-metal, hardcore rock sound quite similar to the big-name bands with whom they've toured. As far as the music industry and the critics are concerned, there is no argument about the quality of their music. *Fireproof* not only grabbed the attention of MCA Records (who revamped and re-released the CD), but it managed to pick up two Dove Awards, hit the top slot on R&R's CBA rock chart with the title track and song "Echelon", land Pillar-favorable press in *Rolling Stone*, **Spin**, Hit Parader and covers of *Rockline*, *Breakaway*, *HM*, and *R&R* magazines. Thus far, the band history supports their t-shirt claim that "Pillar rocks my face off!"

Just last year, these four guys from Tulsa (Rob Beckley, Kaleb, Noah Henson, and Lester Estelle) launched their third and latest album *Where Do We Go From Here*. The band was hard pressed by the music industry and executives to sell-out and water down their music in order to play to the crowds with the record, but their tenacity and conviction was solid. This tenacity and conviction is written boldly

throughout the tracks on *WDWGFH*. Singing frequently about internal and external barriers that keep people bound, Rob is quick to respond with his defiant persistence to find his own freedom.

Already, it's taken hard music radio stations by storm with the songs "Hypnotized" and "Bring me Down". Like its predecessor, it has also begun to receive awards and has been climbing in sales twice as fast as *Fireproof*. They've proven that candor sells and blatant honesty is still appreciated.

Now on tour, the band is bringing their bold sound and lyrics to the west coast, and Ballard's very own Paradox is on the circuit (the actual show is in the main auditorium of Mars Hill Church). Friday March 11th, Pillar will take to the stage to bring their music and message to the people of Seattle.

Along with Pillar, the rap/hip-hop duo Grits will be claiming the stage. Hailing from Tennessee, Bonefide and Coffee (the two members of Grits) have pressed seven records since they stepped away from dancing for the group DC Talk and their first album ten years ago, *Mental Release*. They are recognized as one of today's premier Christian rap artists and are pressing on with their newest albums *Dichotomy A and B*. ▽

Tickets to the show are currently \$14 at www.itickets.com or \$16 at the door. The doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 7pm. For more information about the show or the bands, check out www.pillarmusic.com, www.grits7.com, or www.marhillchurch.org.

Miyazaki's Films Present a Tasteful Alternative

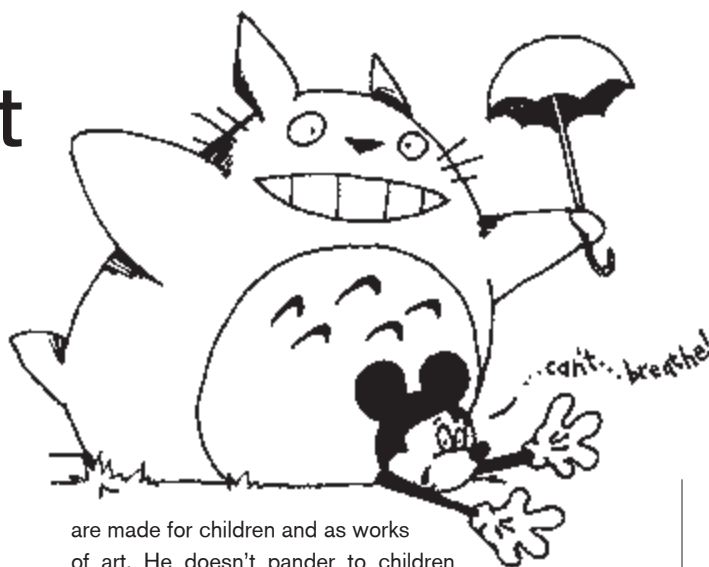
by Jeremiah Lawson

In the three short years in which there has been an Oscar category for best animated film this award has never once gone to a film actually made by Disney. The honor has gone to the two animation studios whose films Disney has been distributing since the late 1990s, Pixar and Studio Ghibli. It would seem the days in which Disney advertised each and every one of its major productions as "Walt Disney's newest masterpiece" are finally, and mercifully, behind us. In fact Disney has recently acquired rights to remake a film that Studio Ghibli director Hayao Miyazaki made more than a decade ago, *Kiki's Delivery Service*, as a live-action film.

While imitation is still the sincerest form of flattery, Disney also has a contract with Studio Ghibli that ensures they will release more of Miyazaki's films in the U.S. We're going to see Miyazaki's new film *Howl's Moving Castle* hit theaters in June. In late February we saw home releases of his earlier films *Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind* and *Porco Rosso*, as well as another Studio Ghibli film by Hiroyuki Morita. Reportedly Disney will also soon release *My Neighbor Totoro*. *Totoro* made a few headlines in the last three years when a statistical survey of violence in children's entertainment revealed it was the single least violent children's movie ever made. For Christian parents hoping to find cartoons that don't promote violence this would seem to be a heartening statistic.

But while *My Neighbor Totoro* is certainly going to be less violent and far more artfully made than any episode of "Bible-Man", a good number of Christians have been wary of Miyazaki's obvious pantheism. 2002's *Spirited Away* was so fraught with images culled from Shintoism, Japanese folklore and Miyazaki's own imagination that Christian film critics offered a panoply of opinions ranging from warning Christians against even viewing the film to enthusiastically endorsing it. Because most mainstream critics (Roger Ebert being a notable exception) have not familiarized themselves with Miyazaki's overall output, Christian parents will understandably want an idea what Miyazaki's films are about, especially since his films seem to be gaining a broader and more important place in family entertainment.

The first thing that must be said is that Miyazaki's works



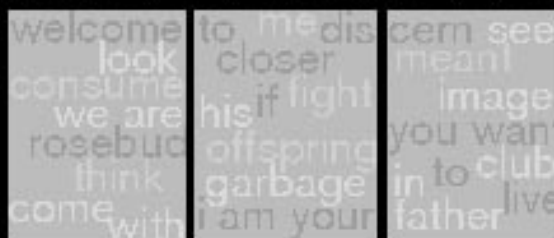
are made for children and as works of art. He doesn't pander to children he doesn't look down on them either and he generally addresses themes that resonate with adult concerns. Rather than tell stories in which the final moral is "be true to yourself," his works directly address themes like growing responsibilities, family loyalty or ecological fables.

In contrast to both Disney and Pixar films, Miyazaki's films are far more likely to have both parents present and to treat their presence in a child's life as positive. When a parent is absent there is an explanation that helps propel the story. In Miyazaki films, parents are never treated as obstacles to the realization of a young person's goal and romance is never considered a primary goal, if it is considered at all. Compared to many Western feature-length cartoons, Miyazaki's perspective of family is much more positive.

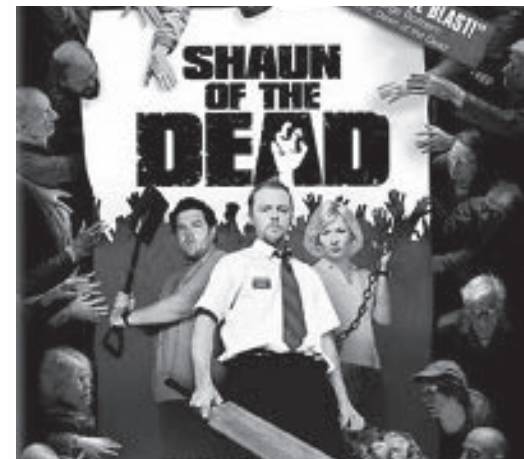
His view of humanity in general, however, is not positive. A very dark view of humanity pervades most of his work, particularly in his post-apocalyptic ecological fable *Nausicaa* and his more recent films *Princess Mononoke* and *Spirited Away*. While Miyazaki sees no hope for humanity, in general he believes it is immoral to instill such a negative view of the race in children, whom he believes have an opportunity for personal self-improvement. This tends to manifest itself in stories where nature or nature spirits show mostly or wholly unmerited favor to children or young adults. In *Nausicaa*, the title character sacrifices herself to make peace between nature and man and is resurrected. In *Spirited Away*, a girl is shown completely unmerited favor by a river spirit. Despite Miyazaki's disdain for Christianity a number of his stories present problems he can only resolve through a divine mercy that doesn't add up within his pantheistic view.

Christians, particularly those from a Reformed perspective, can say that whether or not Miyazaki's pantheism is an adequate answer to the problems he raises, he at least understands that humanity has created its own problems. Where the Christian parent and Miyazaki will differ is in where the solution to our dilemma may be found. ▽

film&theology



all stories possess shared themes, and many films are saying a lot more than you realize. join us as we engage contemporary culture and view this art form through a discerning lens.



"SHAUN OF THE DEAD"
friday march 18, 6:45pm



MARS HILL CHURCH

Film Review: Constantine

by Pastor James Harleman

Starring Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz, Shia LaBeaouf, Djimon Hounsou. Directed by Francis Lawrence. Rated R

Wooden Jesus

Ah, Hollywood. While Hollywood often pillages books, television and comic books for film ideas, voraciously mauling the source material beyond recognition, the process never ceases to amaze me. Particularly in light of recent comic book adaptations that have been so successful ("Spider-man" and "X-Men" come to mind, as well as lesser known "The Road to Perdition" and "From Hell") I expected better from Francis Lawrence's *Constantine*. For every Doctor Octopus, however, I guess there's a Halle Berry in a ridiculous cat-suit.

Although I fully engaged *Constantine*, expecting it to be completely divorced from its source material, I'll take the time to rant briefly about Hollywood's folly. The "Hellblazer" magazine, from which *Constantine* is derived, focuses on an over-the-hill British slacker in his mid-50s, with wild blonde hair and weathered looks, sporting a dirty brown trench coat, thick accent and the sarcastic bite of an urban Londoner, world-traveled yet typically found in a British pub drinking Guinness with his mates while enjoying Silk Cut cigarettes all the while embroiled in some nightmarish occult fiasco. Obviously Hollywood would translate this character into...a baby-faced Keanu Reeves, with tousled black hair, still wearing Matrix gear and set the movie against the lush European landscape of... downtown Los Angeles? About all they kept was the smoking habit, and even that gets turned into a two-hour advertisement for www.thetruth.com before movie's end.

Our thoroughly Americanized John Constantine is a reluctant exorcist, attempting to earn enough merit to warrant salvation even when the angel Gabriel herself articulates that he quite clearly cannot. This has nothing to do with salvation by grace, of course, but simply a warped Catholic notion that – since he committed suicide earlier in life and was dead for a few minutes – he has committed a mortal sin for which he can't atone. An equally awkward story point, amidst the lush Catholic trappings (which Hollywood falls back on when it thinks of Christianity, because it offers the most visual, ritualistic expression of religion, which is all most unbelievers think faith is about) is a cynical view of God and the devil, heaven and hell. It seems that God and the devil are merely cosmic, high-stakes gamblers rolling the dice for who can "win the most souls." To the outsider, this assessment doesn't surprise me, but it mistakenly assumes that Satan has a chance of winning, and that God is less than sovereign; I can fully understand why such a twisted understanding of the spiritu-

ality leaves the non-Christian uneasy.

Though the film is not as bad as *Catwoman*, and though there are some interesting visuals and cinematography, the story limps along with little substance. The acting is wooden and sub-par as Keanu Reeves does his best "Agent Smith" impression throughout. And when the pure evil is represented by rockstars posing as actors (like Gavin Rossdale) and a flat performance by Tilda Swinton, the conflict all around us turns out to be the audience trying to stay awake.

The notion that the solution to the age-old war of good and evil rests on an understanding human "middle-ground" is simply droll in light of its arrogant anthropocentrism; God is apparently too strict, rigid and impersonal, and the devil is a little too wicked; golly, if only we could all get along. Please... if this were the real condition of the universe, we'd all hope for Buddhism so we could eventually become nothing and avoid hanging out in either hell OR heaven. Praise God for the truth that our Savior is not the devil's opposite, but his superior, and God's relationship is much more personal than this film seems to comprehend. *Constantine* is the spiritual equivalent of the frustrated teen in his bedroom acting out because no one "gets" him. Yawn.

Like the title character, *Constantine* the film is caught between heaven and hell...in a lukewarm purgatory of mediocrity. Don't waste your time giving it your indulgence. ❖



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by Mark Driscoll



SPRING QUARTER

**Register for Capstone classes!
Go to www.marshallchurch.org
or register in the Connect Center**

It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone'. Acts 4:10-11

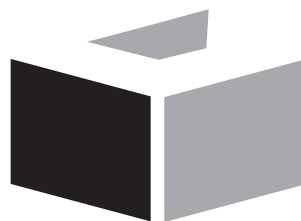
At Mars Hill Church, we believe that theological education is an important facet in the life of every believer. To equip our brothers and sisters in Christ, we offer classes to anyone who wants to learn more about God and live closer with Him. The Capstone Institute is a teaching and nurturing ministry dedicated to equipping all parts of the body with sound doctrine and practical application. Classes are free of charge, because we hope to eliminate unnecessary barriers and provide learning opportunities for everyone. Capstone classes are taught by Mars Hill Church pastors, pastors from the Seattle area and other qualified teachers.

Capstone offers two levels of learning: a personal enrichment and certificate program. For personal enrichment, the requirements are that one would regularly attend the class and be an active participant in classes that require participation. There are three focus areas of the certificate degree program:

- The Bible Certificate Degree includes these classes: The Gospel Class, Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey.
- The Apologetic Certificate Degree includes these classes: How to Study the Bible, Apologetics 101, World Religions and Cults.
- The Practical Theology Certificate Degree includes these classes: Evangelism, Gospel and Culture, Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

Requirements for someone that wishes to pursue the certificate degrees are regular attendance, active participation in classes and anywhere from 2-6 hours of outside reading or course work (depending on class). There will be either papers or tests that will be graded to evaluate competency of the material learned. Along with core certificate classes, there will be numerous classes on books of the Bible, doctrinal classes, and practical theology classes. We desire that men and women seek to enrich their understanding of the secure foundation we enjoy Jesus Christ, the capstone of our faith, and subsequently reflect that relationship in community and daily living.

All Capstone Classes build on the fundamentals covered in our introductory "Gospel Class". As such, this class is the prerequisite for all other Capstone Classes.



capstone
institute
at MARS HILL CHURCH

The Gospel Class

Wednesday Night, 6:45 – 8:30 starting April 6th

Taught by Mars Hill Pastors & Deacons of Mars Hill Church

This class is designed to be the first point of connection for those considering Mars Hill as their church home, for a season or for a lifetime. It also serves as the theological foundation from which our theology and community springs.

Content of the class includes an overview the Scriptures, God, Creation, Sin, Salvation, Stewardship, the Missional Church, Spiritual Gifts and Mars Hill Church's core values, giving everyone a healthy overview of basic biblical theology and how this plays out philosophically and practically in the way we embody the gospel to the neighborhood in which we live.

We ask that every potential church member take this class to assess how they feel about God, the gospel, and Mars Hill Church, praying for discernment and growth as they choose a local body of believers to call their family.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

(6:45-8:30, starting April 6th)

The Book of Acts

Pastor Steve Tompkins (M.C.S and M. Div.)

The book of Acts is the "hinge" which ties together the gospels on the one hand, and the letters which make up the rest of the New Testament on the other hand. Acts gives us an understanding of the development of the early church, the power of the Kingdom of God, the personality of Paul, the context of all of Paul's letters and the geography of the Roman Empire. This incredible book also provides foundational work in the areas of church planting and evangelism, the work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, spiritual warfare, and the power of prayer all in the Christian life. The book of

Acts also opens up to the believer what cultural engagement, church government, the opposition of Satan and persecution from men, and the freedom, joy, and victory that are ours in Jesus as we follow Him, even here in the Seattle area.

Leaders Who Last

Dave Kraft (member)

How do leaders survive for so long? Come hear and dialogue with Dave Kraft someone who has been in full time ministry for numerous years. Get the opportunity to understand and begin to apply the basic essentials of effective, fruitful and long lasting leadership. The heart of this class is to learn what it will take to finish well and to avoid the mistakes that many leaders have made that has caused them to be ineffective and crash by living out Biblical principles in your life. To get more information on this class you can look through the class book Leaders Who Last in the Mars Hill Church Resource Center. This class is offered for those in leadership positions at Mars Hill Church. There will be no online registration for this class, if you desire to take this class please contact Dave Kraft via email at davekraft@comcast.net to ensure your enlistment.

Practical Theology for Women

Wendy Alsup (deacon)

Practical Theology for Women deals with the deep things of the Word in a relevant and practical manner. Topics this quarter include the Discipline of the Lord; Guilt, Shame, and Forgiveness; History of the Reformation, the Five Points of Calvinism; Covenantal v. Dispensational Theology, and the Authority Structure of the Church. While we won't exhaust each topic, we will give you a frame of reference for the topic including the overarching Bible principles behind each and why it matters to your daily walk.

Biblical Roles Class

Pastor Lief Moi (Masters in Ministry)
Pastor Paul Petry

The Biblical Roles Class is intent on the development of a Biblical perspective regarding the roles of men and women. Through a scriptural lens we will look at moral principles, values, and standards of conduct in regard to personal and social decision making. Understanding our purpose as men and women in God's Kingdom is vital today and invaluable to Mars Hill Church and the community in which we live. This class will be challenging and very practical for personal growth. Topics in this class will include: the image of God, the world's view of men & women, singleness, courting and the roles of men and women.

Gospel & Culture

Pastor James Harleman

Movies. Art museums. Political Correctness. Rock stars. Entitlement. Reality TV. Self-Esteem. The "freedom" to be manipulated consumers... we live in a culture that is media and material-driven, bound together by shared experience and apt to discuss seemingly inconsequential issues to avoid confrontation. Even in the Christian community, the way in which we interact with our surrounding culture often models this mindset, inadvertently tainting our approach to God's Word and the methods in which we pursue His Great Commission for our lives. The biblical reality is that very little is "inconsequential," and everything preaches. Goals of this class are to expose cultural presuppositions, explore biblically how culture can be used for evangelism, and also redefine how we think about "entertainment" in relation to what we engage culturally (and why). Assignments will include exploring film music, magazines, movies, books and more.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CLASSES (Starting April 3rd)

The Book of Ephesians

3:00 pm, Kabyn Begg (member)

The definition of grace is God's absolutely undeserved kindness to the wretched. This grace was given before time. It was given in Christ and has made us alive by the Holy Spirit. This rich grace is making believers new as a family and as an army charged with covering the whole earth with this grace. There are deep applications of understanding this grace as we live in Seattle. Join us in a study of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians that we might grow in this grace together.

Biblical Roles Class

1:30 pm, Pastor Lief Moi (Masters in Ministry)

NOTE: This class is intended to be taken jointly by couples who are engaged to be married. The Bible speaks of marriage as a covenant, a model, a form of relational, romantic, and practical worship that models the exquisite romance between Christ and His church. This class serves as a premarital study for any couple wanting to be married by a Mars Hill elder. However, it is also open to married couples who have never had biblical pre-marriage counseling as space is available.

New Testament Greek II

1:20 pm, Brant Bosserman (member)

As a supplementary class to the Introductory Greek course, New Testament Greek II seeks to advance one's understanding of New Testament Greek beyond basic noun, adjective, and verb forms. Ultimately, New Testament Greek II along with prior and subsequent Greek courses seeks to aid one's ability to understand and interpret Scripture accurately. Students should expect to devote 6-8 hours of time outside of class to memorizing vocabulary, translating New Testament Verses, and other various homework assignments. New Testament Greek II is open to students who have taken and passed Introduction to Greek I. However, anyone who is able to pass the Introduction to Greek I final exam, may take New Testament Greek II.

Shaping the Soul

1:20 pm, Glen Johnson (Ph.D. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Pastor at Doxa Church in West Seattle)

What is the soul? How does the soul relate to the heart? To the spirit? To the mind? What are the faculties of the soul? What does the Bible teach about the faculties of the soul? Can the soul grow? Can it "shrink"? What can we do to be in labor pain until Christ is formed in a person? How do we keep in step with the Holy Spirit's work of transforming the soul? What is the meaning of a restored soul? We will chew on these questions together. Our hope is that God will shape our souls together.



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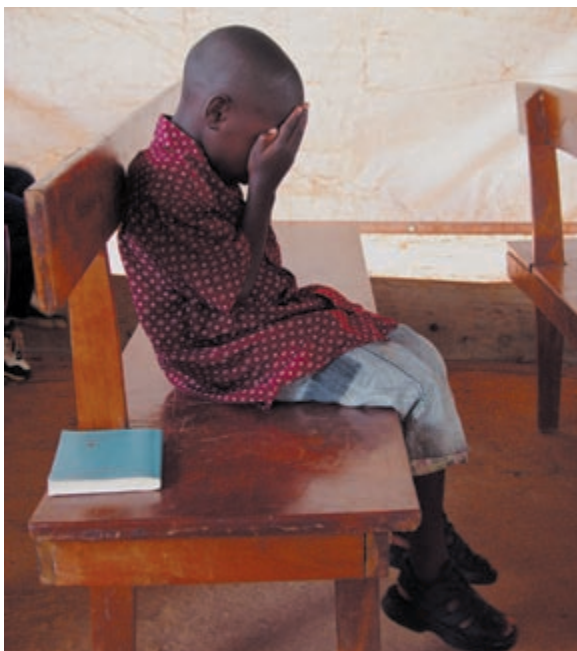


Photo by: Nick Onken

Responding to AIDS, responding to God.

By Tera L. Miller

How do you know when you are being called? Where do you begin? Two Mars Hill Church members were faced with these questions when the Lord presented them with the same calling: to help orphans and widows affected by the global AIDS crisis. Although their calling was identical, the actions they took were different.

Rob Smith, born and raised in South Africa, truly embraced his Christianity with a new awareness at age 17, when he outgrew the legalistic theology of the church he grew up in. His new understanding of God as the loving Father of all children would lead him to his calling, which came years later after moving his family to the United States and finding a new home at Mars Hill in 1999.

Growing up in South Africa, Smith was always cognizant of the AIDS crisis, which was largely ignored by South Africa's governmental leaders. Even though he remembered as a teenager seeing people dying of AIDS on the streets, he had nearly given up hope of finding a solution. Then one day he came upon a verse that he had read many times before. In James 1:27, Smith understood his calling and found a resolute hope in the gospel. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Smith began to calculate the financial cost in his head, currency exchange rates, price of real estate and labor, and the cost of raising a child in South Africa. The numbers indicated that he could not only adopt one child, but he could adopt a community of children. Smith realized that God had given him an opportunity to parent these orphaned children and to raise them with the Lord. Smith, along with fellow

Mars Hill Church member Marc Fulmer, started the Agathos Foundation. Their mission became to provide a community of love and support to South African orphans and widows through the building of houses, the provision of food, and the message of the gospel.

In the same way that Mars Hill Church opens its doors and offers hospitality to the greater Seattle community, the Agathos Foundation invites neighboring villages and community members to the orphanage's cookouts and chorale performances. "We bring the gospel to impact the individual as well as the community."

While Rob has been aware of the South African AIDS crisis since childhood, Lisa Krohn developed her awareness of this global crisis as a senior at Seattle Pacific University. Krohn, who has been attending Mars Hill for the past five years, believes God speaks to people in different ways. She has come to understand that God speaks to her whenever a feeling of discomfort makes her want to flee from a situation. "It is God's way of saying that I should stay and do something," she said.

Krohn was hit with an overwhelming feeling of discom-

fort when she and her friend, James Pedrick, also a Mars Hill Church member, attended a speaking engagement about the AIDS crisis in South Africa by Steve Haas, vice president of church relations at World Vision. Krohn knew that she needed to take action, but she felt uncertain. Two verses began to tug at her heart, "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18) and "Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor" (Zechariah 7:10).

Until that moment, her life had been a bubble that didn't involve global affairs, let alone tackling a pandemic. She then asked James, "Do you want to do something about this?" That simple question was the beginning of a nation-wide Christian movement on college campuses.

Lisa and James, along with another classmate, Jackie Yoshimura, planned a campus-wide awareness campaign with a desire to "engage the younger generation of the Church." News of their eye-opening Acting on AIDS awareness campaign sparked the interest of World Vision, which after months of negotiations, offered the three students full-time jobs to help other students at universities across the country start sustainable Acting on AIDS chapters to engage their campuses and start a national movement.

Krohn, a Christian since her senior year in high school, believes "if anyone is going to own this, it's got to be the young generation of the church. It is like counteractive education: we are educating older generations. If it doesn't affect us now, it will in the future," she said. ▽

To get involved or learn more about Agathos Foundation, please visit www.agathosfoundation.org. To get involved or learn more about Acting on AIDS, please visit www.actingonaids.org.



Reaching the Heart

April 8-9

By Sara Brinton

Last night, my husband and I had an engaged couple over for dinner. We began the evening talking about how to save money on their wedding. After we put our two-month-old son to bed, the conversation deepened and we discussed what the Bible teaches about marriage and family. What do Paul's words in Ephesians, "wives, submit to your husbands...husbands, love your wives," (Ephesians 5:22, 25) mean in everyday life? What about money? And what about children?

Although the young woman loved babies and wanted to be a mother, she was unsure whether she would want to give up her satisfying and lucrative career to stay home with her children. She was scared to trust her future husband to provide financially for the family. Her parents had always encouraged her to be self-sufficient. On a deeper level, however, there was a problem in the woman's heart and soul: she did not trust God to satisfy her deepest desires.

According to Larry Crabb, "Most people go through their entire life never speaking words to another human being that come out of what is deepest within them, and most people never hear words that reach all the way into that deep place we call the soul," (SoulTalk, Crabb 2003, 13).

Do you want to learn how to reach deep inside people's hearts? To respond to a friend who reveals he is struggling with sin? To relate to others in a way that they can experience healing, wholeness, and renewed passion for God?

Discover what is missing!

Come to the Reach the Heart Experience on Friday and Saturday, April 8-9. Discover how to authentically connect with others in everyday life so that you can engage them in conversations that matter. Participants in the weekend training will be equipped to think more clearly about the struggle beneath the surface in people's lives and to move with intentionality into this battle. The conference, hosted by Mars Hill Church, will feature teaching by Dr. Larry Crabb, worship, and opportunity for discussion.

Few Christians know from experience that they can get close enough to God to hear Him speak. This conference is for the renewal of spiritual communities, where people hear from God and reach deep into each other's hearts with the love and power of his Spirit. According to Jay Diller, Pastor of Grace Community Church in Auburn, the Reach the Heart Experience is designed for "those who are leading small groups, mentoring or discipling others, and anyone who sincerely wants to grow in Christ."

Dr. Larry Crabb believes that spiritual formation is at the heart of change. The essence of spiritual formation is to grow in the likeness of Christ so that as we live in the world, others will see and understand Jesus through our lives.

"But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code," (Romans 7:6).

The Reach the Heart Experience will contrast the old way and the new way to live. Once we know God through Christ, the most natural thing in the world is to live in a way that we hope and pray will result in the blessings we want. Yet, this is the old way and it is wrong because it values blessings from God over friendship with God. Moreover, the old way assumes that we can earn God's blessings by following watered down principles of the law.

But God's demand is perfection. Only Jesus passed the test. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are free to serve in the new way of the Spirit. We have the opportunity to know God better in the middle of every situation, good or bad, wonderful or terrible. When we learn to desire God first and every other blessing second, we discover the new way to live.

Dr. Larry Crabb is a Christian psychologist and the author of more than 20 books, including *Connecting*, *The Pressures Off*, and *SoulTalk*. Dr. Crabb stumbled into psychology in college and earned his Ph.D. because he didn't know what else to do. During his graduate career, he figured that being a Christian psychologist was not different from being a psychologist who happened to be a Christian. He decided to give up Christianity for two years, reasoning that he would not believe something simply because it was his heritage. When he began to read Francis Schaeffer and C.S. Lewis, however, Larry Crabb returned to his faith, deciding that if Christianity is true, it must control everything.

After teaching in the psychology department at the University of Illinois, Dr. Larry Crabb made the decision to pursue Christian counseling in private practice. No longer did he want to be a psychologist who happened to be a Christian; instead, he was a Christian who happened to be a psychologist. After 10 years of private

practice, Dr. Crabb became persuaded that the community of God's people was meant to be the place where the deepest healing takes place. He concluded that real healing has less to do with technical intervention and more to do with profound relational engagement, and that the context for this engagement is the church. Years later, Dr. Crabb began to ponder what the Trinity and community have to do with sanctification in counseling. He discovered the transforming power that is released when people learn to enter the kind of community that God has enjoyed in the Trinity.

As a result, Dr. Crabb formed New Way Ministries. New Way Ministries is committed to helping churches form spiritual communities where people hear from God and reach deep into each other's hearts with the love and power of God. One of the most important and best received programs of New Way Ministries is the Reach the Heart Experience.

The cost of the Reach the Heart Experience is \$85 for the full conference or \$65 for Saturday only. The conference meets on Friday, April 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration is available on the day of the conference. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Snacks and lunch will be provided for those who register before the day of the conference. To register now and for more information, visit www.reachtheheartexperience.com.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Reach the Heart Experience. Volunteers will be able to sit in on portions of the conference for free. For more information about volunteering, contact Bubba Jennings, bubba@marhillchurch.org.

"real change in real relationships" | enjoy authentic relationship with God & experience transformed, renewed friendships with others



we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. Rom. 7:6

REACH THE HEART
experience

with noted author
Dr. Larry Crabb

april 8 - 9 at Mars Hill Church in Seattle | details & registration at
www.reachtheheartexperience.com

Vintage Saints

by Pastor Mark Driscoll

Saint Patrick

"I am a servant of Christ to a foreign nation for the unspeakable glory of life everlasting which is in Jesus Christ our Lord."
Patrick

My family name was originally O'Driscoll until it was changed a few generations ago by relatives hoping to more fully assimilate into American culture after immigrating from Ireland. Though I was raised Irish Catholic I knew virtually nothing about Saint Patrick other than the green beer, parades, shamrocks, leprechauns and drunken Red Sox fans that celebrated in his honor every March 17th.

Technically, Saint Patrick is not even a saint as he was never canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. Additionally, Patrick was not even Irish. Rather, he was an Englishman who was a Roman citizen that spoke Latin and a bit of Welsh.

Patrick was born around 390 A.D. When he was roughly 16 years of age he was captured by pirates and taken to Ireland on a ship where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next six years alone in the wilderness as a shepherd for his masters' cattle and sheep.

Patrick was a rebellious non-Christian teenager who had come from a Christian family. His grandfather was a pastor, and his father was a deacon. However, during his extended periods of isolation without any human contact Patrick began praying and was eventually born again into a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Patrick endured the years of isolation in rain and snow by praying up to 100 prayers each day and another 100 each night.

In his early 20's God spoke to Patrick in a dream telling him to flee from his master for a ship that was waiting for him. Amazingly, Patrick made the 200 mile walk without being caught or harmed to find a ship setting sail for his home just as God had promised. The sailors were out of food for the journey, and after Patrick prayed a herd of pigs miraculously

ran toward the ship providing a bountiful feast for the long voyage home.

Upon returning home, Patrick enrolled in seminary and was eventually commissioned as a pastor. Some years later God spoke to Patrick in a dream commanding him to return to Ireland to preach the gospel and plant churches for the pagans who lived there.

The Roman Catholic Church had given up on converting such "barbarians" deemed beyond hope. The Celtic peoples, of which the Irish were part, were an illiterate bunch of drunken, fighting, perverted pagans who basically had sex with anyone and worshipped anything. They were such a violent and lawless people numbering anywhere from 200,000 to 500,000 that they had no city centers or national government and were spread out among some 150 warring clans. Their enemies were terrified of them because they were known to show up for battles and get naked, drunk and partake in wild orgies before running into battle naked and drunk while screaming as if they were demon possessed. One clan was so debased that it was customary for their new kings to copulate with a white mare as part of his inauguration.

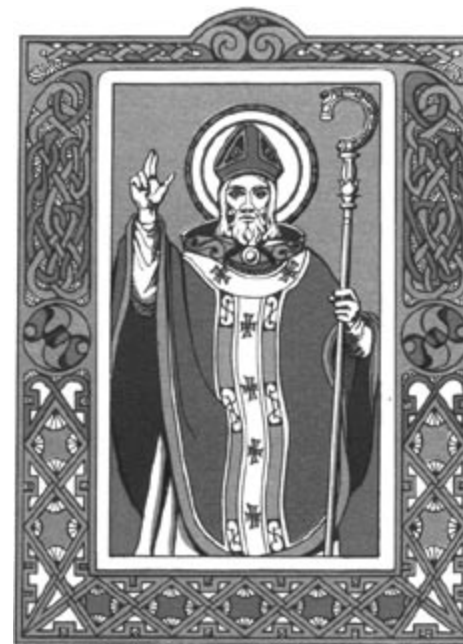
In faith, the forty-something year-old Patrick sold all of his possessions, including the land he had inherited from his father to fund his missionary journey to Ireland. He worked as an itinerant preacher and paid large sums of money to various tribal chiefs to ensure he could travel safely through their lands and preach the gospel. His strategy was completely unique, and he functioned like a missionary trying to relate to the Irish people and communicate the gospel in their culture by using such things as three leaf clovers to explain the gospel. Upon entering a pagan clan Patrick would seek to first convert the tribal leaders and other people of influence. He would then pray for the sick, cast demons out of the possessed, preach the Bible and use both musical and visual arts to compel people to put their faith in Jesus. If enough converts were present he would build a simple church that did not resemble ornate Roman architecture, baptize the converts and hand over the church to a convert he had trained to be the pastor so that he could move on to repeat the process in with another clan.

Patrick gave his life to the people who had enslaved him until he died at 77 years of age. He had seen untold thousands of people convert as between 30-40 of the 150 tribes had become substantially Christian, trained 1000 pastors, planted 700 churches, and was the first noted person in history to take a strong public stand against slavery.

Curiously, Patrick's unorthodox ministry methods, which had brought so much fruit among the Irish, also brought much opposition from the Roman Catholic Church. Because Patrick was so far removed from Roman civilization and church polity he was seen by some as an instigator of unwelcome changes. This led to great conflicts between the Roman and Celtic Christians. The Celtic Christians had

their own calendar and celebrated Easter a week earlier than their Roman counterparts. Additionally, the Roman monks shaved only the hair on the top of their head whereas the Celtic monks shaved all of their hair except their long locks which began around the bottom of their head as a funky monk mullet. The Romans considered these and other variations by the Celtic Christian leaders to be acts of insubordination.

In the end, the Roman Church should have learned from Patrick, who is one of the greatest missionaries who has ever lived. Though Patrick's pastors and churches looked different in method, they were very orthodox in their theology and radically committed to such things as Scripture and the Trinity. Additionally, they were some of the most gifted Christian artists the world has ever known and their prayers and songs endure to this day around the world, including at Mars Hill where we occasionally sing the "Prayer of Saint Patrick" and Celtic hymn "Be Thou My Vision." ▽



For Further Study:

- On Sunday March 14th at 7pm on the Hallmark Channel there will be a documentary on the life of Patrick
- At www.ccel.org there is a free copy available of Patrick's book Confessions.
- Steve Rabey's book *In the House of Memory* is a good introduction to Patrick and Celtic Christianity
- Thomas Cahill's book *How the Irish Saved Civilization* is a fascinating historical look at Patrick and the implications of Celtic Christianity on western history
- www.ChristianityToday.com/history is the site for Christian History and Biography magazine, which is a wonderful resource that includes an entire issue on Patrick and Celtic Christianity

Morality, Civic Duty and loving our Neighbor

By Rob Smith

Editor's note: Rob is a Mars Hill member writing in response to an excerpt from Donald Miller's book, Searching for God Knows What, printed in February's Vox Pop. To read the excerpt, go to www.marshallchurch.org or go read the book.

Sound doctrine teaches us to love God, love our Christian brothers and sisters and love our non-Christian neighbors and community. Jesus said that the whole law is summed up in two laws: You shall love the Lord your God, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The problem is that we fail to do this – and as we are convicted by this we flee to Christ for mercy and forgiveness.

One of the purposes of the law is to teach us how to love God and love our neighbor. Love of God is reflected by worshipping God, not bowing to false Gods and idols, not taking God's name in vain and by being holy as He is holy. Love of neighbor is reflected by honoring parents, not murdering, stealing, lying, committing adultery or coveting.

Every law relates to the love of God or the love of our neighbor. How does this relate to civic duty, and do we as Christians have a responsibility to love our neighbor in this area? If we love our neighbors, we will want the best for them. Society thrives under good law – so to promote good law shows love to mankind. In our country where we can vote, debate and participate in the governing of our country we have a responsibility to love our families and neighbors by promoting and supporting good moral laws. Society thrives under good laws and suffers under bad laws. We who love people therefore want to see our neighbors flourish under good laws.

"Not so," says Donald Miller in last month's *Vox Pop*. In a disappointing excerpt from the book *Searching for God Knows What*, Miller equates the evangelical groups that are attempting to fight for good moral law with extreme Muslims and states that these groups are fighting on Satan's side. He strongly blasts these groups for using war rhetoric – yet he himself does this in recognizing that there is a fight and that the fight involves Satan.

Miller seems to suggest that Christians have no place trying to uphold good morals by influencing our lawmakers. He portrays Christians who are doing this as war-mongering mean people who spit on and beat up homosexuals (who themselves are all wonderful, kind people). In his opinion, we should tell people about Jesus rather than build some kind of moral civilization on earth.

While I appreciate Miller's *Blue Like Jazz* writing style, I found this particular passage flawed and disingenuous. In *BLJ*, Miller talks about his active participation in a group protesting the World Trade Organization in Portland, yet he decries the groups that are working to influence Washington lawmakers. He is okay with militantly pushing his moral views, but piously condemns evangelical groups from pushing for their morals. The moral view he is pushing is that Christians should not push their morals upon others. This is like the person who emphatically states that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Duh!

Christians have every right to join forces and attempt to influence lawmakers to enact good laws. Good laws are good for our country, and we love our country. We ought to do this in a loving way – but the very fact we do it is based upon our love for people. We love our own families and want to raise our families in a country that has good law, and we love our neighbors.

Miller suggests that the way to impact our country is to avoid influencing our lawmakers and just reach people for Christ. Well, how do the people who have been reached show love for God and country? How do we encourage good moral law if we are encouraged not to do so? This separatist mindset has failed in the past and will fail in the future.

Our foundation is Jesus – notwithstanding what happens to our culture. Some suggest that we as Christians should not work for good moral law because our foundation is not morality but Jesus. This is like suggesting that we should not work on our cars or in our gardens because our foundation is Jesus. Yes, our foundation is Jesus, but we are to be good stewards of our resources and of our country.

Bad law does destroy our culture – we have seen 42 million babies destroyed by abortion. While this does not destroy our standing in Christ, it ought to distress us and we who love God and mankind should desire to see this terrible practice outlawed. Those who oppose us may be kind, nice people who feel that we are simply mean moralists for trying to persuade lawmakers to pass laws that outlaw abortion and other evils – like gay marriage. They may feel threatened and targeted – because good law does bring constraints and punishment.

Some Christians will be called to work hard to both overturn bad laws that allow these destructive sins or uphold the good laws that we have. Others will be called to support these people and still others will just be concerned and pray. None of us can be comfortably apathetic about bad law. ▽

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Matt 5:13, 14

these theology classes might hurt your head, but they won't kill your bank account.

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institute
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wed. evenings & sun. afternoons

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is this your church home? find out...
thegospelclass



do you still have questions about what mars hill believes, or just about the gospel?

join us this spring wed nights at 6:45 beginning april 3 for this 10-week exploration of our doctrine & mission.

(see events page for details; this class is a prerequisite for church membership and all other capstone classes)

Mars Hill Community Groups

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb 10:24-25)

Mars Hill community groups are modeled after the early New Testament home churches. In Acts Chapter 2, Christians gathered together in homes for the purposes of studying Scripture, bonding as a Christ-loving community and advancing the Gospel in their culture. They held everything in common through friendship, prayer, fellowship, meals and study.

All community groups take place in the homes of church members who are committed to sharing their lives with those who participate in their group. The purpose of community groups is to provide a warm environment with

opportunities for you to connect and grow authentic relationships and lasting biblical friendships with your brothers and sisters in Christ, experience authentic biblical community with God and others, find nourishment and accountability as you mature in your own walk with Christ and establish a support center from which you will go out into your various social networks carrying the hope of the Gospel.

Prayerfully consider joining a community group. A comprehensive list of groups with contact information is available online, in the connect center, and below.

(Please contact the host for address, directions, etc. using the contact information given below)



MONDAY

Ballard

Becky Clements
206-297-0702
rebeccaclements@hotmail.com

Ballard 7pm

Kurt & Michelle Stender
206-783-4425
michelle@stenderlaw.com

Ballard 7pm

Mark Blair
marktheblair@yahoo.com

Greenlake

Josh Wall
206-524-2032
zoned_out2@yahoo.com

North Seattle 10am

Kate Policani
206-418-0405
cupkate@comcast.net

Redmond 7pm

John and Jeannie Rivard
206-484-3886
john@rivards.net

TUESDAY

Ballard

Brad and Jill House
206-227-2652
jillhouse@hotmail.com

Ballard 7:30pm

David and Patty Pauls
(206) 235-4215
patty@starfishcreative.com

Ballard 6:30pm

Fawn Hall
206-706-8379
gasket_girl@hotmail.com

Ballard 7pm

Jessica Abrams
206-619-3824
jessica@theabrams.net

Ballard

Scott Richardson
206-783-5902
ballardcommunitygroup@earthlink.net

Central District

Brian Truman
206-903-8545
motoroilandbedhead@yahoo.com

Crown Hill 7:30pm

Drew and Lisa Maxwell
206-650-7085
lisa@marshallchurch.org

Edmonds 7pm

Rick James
512-626-9518
denali_2000@yahoo.com

Everett

Tim and Anne Quiring
425-379-2966
tquiring@earthlink.net

Fremont 7pm

Amie Cross
206-782-1398
across@seattlechristian.org

Greenlake 7:30pm

Christy Oosten
206-297-6391
c_oosten@hotmail.com

Greenwood 6:30pm

Nick and Beth Mocerì
206-219-9092
nick@wearedual.com

Issaquah 6:45pm

Jason Cowan
jasoncowan98@yahoo

vKirkland 7:30pm

Tim and Mariah Zion
206-427-7869
timzion@hotmail

Lake City 7pm

Matthew and Christina Smith
206-300-6128
matthew@windermere

Lake City 7pm

Rose Johnson
206-953-6414
r_shalomj@yahoo

Lynnwood 7pm

Jim Dahlman
425-744-0588
jedahlman@hotmail

Magnolia 7pm

Tony Bolander
206-979-8811
tonybolander@yahoo

Queen Anne 7pm

Joel Robnett
206-300-0960
robnett26@hotmail

Redmond

Jesse Winkler
425-558-9433
jessewinkler@verizon

Shoreline 7pm

Bill and Joan Nieman
206-417-5565
joanandbill@seanet

Shoreline 7pm

Heidi Myers
206-992-3019
alayne@gmail

Shoreline 10am

Trisha Wilkerson
trishaw@speakeasy

So. Issaquah 7pm

David and Sammi Nelson
425-432-0748
applefieldfarm@msn

South Seattle 7pm

Ted and Sarah Dietz
206-755-0774
sarahdietz@comcast

University District 7pm

Jacob Beers
206-524-3396
jbeers707@hotmail

University District 7pm

Josh Dougherty
360-620-2180
doughj@spu

Wallingford 7pm

Michael Adeney
206-240-7589
mwadeney@u.washington

Wallingford

Mike Murphey
206-547-0635
mmurphey@microsoft

WEDNESDAY

Crown Hill 10am

Sandy Patterson
206-306-0977
ssl7@cornell

Kirkland 6:30pm

Jamie Wallace
425-605-4524
jamie@jamieandholly

Kirkland 6:30pm

Sam and Beth Barrett
425-739-7390
samandbethbarrett@attws.com

THURSDAY

Bothell 10am

Danielle Blazer
425-316-6803
DaniBlazer@aol

Kenmore 7pm

Richard Harleman
425-205-9367
raharleman@hotmail

Kirkland 6:30pm

Michelle Bates
(206) 313-7757
lcruizerchick@yahoo

Lynnwood 7:30pm

Bina Ellefsen
206-372-2694
bina@nwirp

Northgate 7pm

Eric and Carla Youngblut
206-219-9125
ericandcarla@youngblut

Phinney Ridge 7pm

Kim Hall
206-297-7995
kimbrehall@comcast

Queen Anne 7pm

Torrey Maben
206-285-7027
torreym@marshallchurch

FRIDAY

North Seattle

Paul and Jonna Petry
pastorpaul@marshallchurch

Redmond 10am

Angela Winkler
425-558-9433
angelawinkler@verizon

SATURDAY

Shoreline 5pm

Mike and Trisha Wilkerson
trishaw@speakeasy

SUNDAY

Bellevue 7:15pm

Tim and Dulci Klassen
425-373-3377
klassen@alternativemissions



Photos courtesy of: bikerswithoutborders.org

A Servant's Heart Peru Mission 2004

by Jennifer Cyr

This past September, 23 people from Mars Hill, myself included, took two weeks out of our busy (often too busy) lives to serve on a mission trip in Peru. For some of us this was one of several mission trips, and for others this was the first, but for everyone this was a life changing experience that opened all of our hearts to more of what God wants for his children.

The trip started with preliminary meetings to prep us on what to expect. These meetings helped us get to know one another and prepare our hearts for what God would have us do in Peru. Our rather frantic itinerary began in Lima, a city of 10 million. We would then travel north to a desert coastal town called Trujillo, where we would assist in the building expansion of a mission and run a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for local kids. Finally, we would embark on a trek through the Andes to visit an orphanage and a Wycliff Bible translation team in the town of Huaraz.

After two long days of travel we arrived in Trujillo. We were warmly greeted with a nice dinner out at a local Italian restaurant. This was a great time of fellowship and the beginning of a wonderful week of service.

The next day we arrived at the church and immediately split up into construction and teaching teams. One of my favorite parts of this trip was seeing our group work together to help others in need. There were many amazing moments during our time at the church, but one of the most memorable was during VBS when Ben Moore prevented the children from descending into total chaos by distracting them with his own unique brand of entertainment:

"As I climbed the last step of the concrete stairs that led to the second story of the mission, a wave of chaotic noisy motion crashed into me. The kids were busy working on crafts, hitting one another and laughing as they crowded around a few tables. I walked around the tables, watching and helping when I could, until Kathryn approached me with big serious eyes and whispered, 'We need to do something about all these kids that are done with their crafts, and are

just running around. Get up there with your guitar and keep them occupied!' I tried to keep the fact that I played guitar a secret, but things like that tend to get out of the box and then you're up in front of a bunch of rowdy, hyper kids who expect to be entertained. I fumbled with my guitar, not knowing what I was going to do. I started playing a Bob Dylan song, but I felt like I was just playing over the kid's heads. They hardly paid any attention. This made me a little angry. 'So.....' I thought, 'you don't like Dylan eh? Well I'll entertain you yet!' I stood there motionless, silent, looking at the kids one by one. They calmed down. 'Okay, what now?' I thought. What happened next surprised the kids as much as it did me. I became a leaping, dancing Italian jester! If I couldn't connect with them verbally or culturally, I'd connect with them with pure wild excitement. I used nonsensical sounds, whispers, shouts, laughs, coos, tiptoes, and bounces. For a moment I became a maniac with my only goal to captivate and please this wild crowd of children.

"The kids from the craft table began to drift back over to their seats and sit in awe at this ridiculous gringo flapping and shouting like a cartoon. I tranced, tramped and trounced until every fiber had been stretched with Dostoyevskian passion until I about dropped, and of course the kids just wanted more. I had opened Pandora's box. From that time on when the kids would see me, they would strum an imaginary guitar and flop their heads around and then point to me. How could I let them down?"

From Trujillo we traveled to Huaraz to embark on the second half of the trip. This was definitely the harder week.

During the first two days in Huaraz our group visited an orphanage, the Wycliff Bible translation center and sampled the local cuisine. Once we had settled into our hostel, we departed on our four-day hike into the Andes Mountains lead by Ade, our local guide. By this time several people started to complain about headaches and upset stomachs. Jim Mallory, one of the leaders of our trip, was particularly

I became a leaping, dancing
Italian jester! If I couldn't
connect with them verbally or
culturally, I'd connect with them
with pure wild excitement.

feeling ill at the start of our hike:

"They say a good leader should first learn to serve. Perhaps the mark of a really dedicated leader is one who becomes utterly useless, lying face down on the trail while the local parasites do a tango in your intestines. At least that's what I told myself while any semblance of management or control of the team quickly slipped away.

"For the first 8 or 9 days Peru had treated me relatively well. Granted there were the obligatory trips to el bano after sampling some questionable local cuisine, but all in all, nothing truly unexpected, until we set our sights on the Andes.

"The first day of the trek went smoothly. While others were leaving breakfast and lunch on the side of the trail, I was strong and confident, lending a helping hand and trying to encourage the team to persevere through the trials. Ha. Then it struck. With uncanny precision, the nasty parasites waited until I was 12 miles from the nearest road to set up camp amid the digestive tract. And with a 15,000 ft. pass looming two days ahead, I thought the timing was entirely uncalled for. The details shall be spared but the end result was a leader who was utterly useless for 48 hours.

"Daylight hours were a mix of stumbling up the trail, riding a reluctant horse when walking lost its appeal and finding a shrub tall enough to duck behind. Evening hours drifted by while treading a constant path between the tent and the makeshift toilet.

"What did I learn from such trials? Our complete dependence upon God, which in this case was poured out through the encouragement of fellow team members. The very same people that had depended upon me for safety, direction and guidance were now helping me drink water from a bottle I was too sick to carry. It is a rare day in our hurried and self oriented lives that we get to experience such a tangible example of Christian fellowship at such a raw and potent level. I thank God for the chance to serve Him and be served by such an amazing group of people."

When we arrived back in Huaraz our trip had come to an end. With one last eight-hour bus ride to Lima, our group headed home.

Throughout this trip to Peru, God used our group in a multitude of ways. From the labor of our hands to our willingness to serve each other, we got to share Christ with the world. ▽

Money at Mars Hill

What do we believe about our stuff?

Very simply, everything we have comes from God. Our money is a blessing and a tool we use to worship Him by giving to the church (to further the Gospel in Seattle), providing for our families and enjoying God and the grace that He gives us. You may have a lot and you may have a little, but the real question is: are you worshipping God with your stuff and do the first fruits of your checkbook reveal that?

How much should I give?

The Bible says that giving is for Christians and should be directed first to your local church. The Bible does not say how much you should give but rather seeks to deal with the heart behind your giving. 2nd Corinthians 8 and 9 say that our giving should be cheerful, regular, sacrificial and generous. The Bible does not prescribe a percentage; through prayer we must seek to have a clear conscience in regards to our giving. Jesus says, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Mt 6:21).

Who should give?

Christians should give faithfully to their local church. If you are not a Christian, don't give—seek to deal with the larger issue: your sin and Jesus' forgiveness of that sin. We are not concerned about the amount people give but about the number of people who are giving. God is building His kingdom through the church, and He asks that all believers share in this joyous responsibility. This mission is bigger than just a few of us and takes everyone's effort and faithfulness; no matter if you are a college student who can give only 10 bucks a month or a millionaire who can give thousands.

How Can I Give At Mars Hill?

- By check or cash placed in the offering basket during service
- By check or cash placed in the triangular kiosks located in the foyers
- By mailing a check to the church office (contact the office if you would like some self addressed envelopes).
- Online contributions can be given via debit or credit card at www.marshillchurch.org.
- Donation of stock.
- Automatic Payments (ACH) can also be set up – email giving@marshillchurch.org

Sincerely,
Pastor Jamie Munson

Questions, Comments or Concerns,
e-mail: giving@marshillchurch.org

CHURCH FINANCIAL INFORMATION/WEEKLY GIVING TRENDS

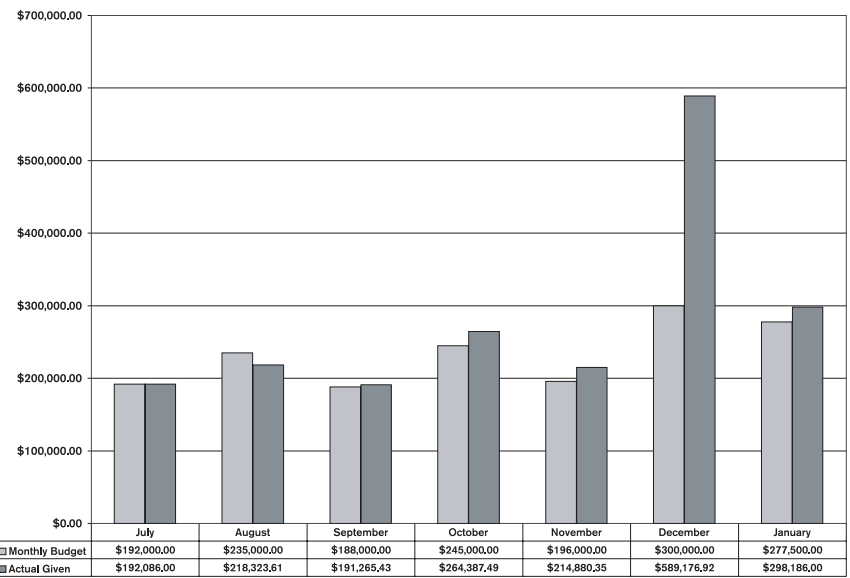
Date	Budget	Giving	# of Givers	Attendance
January 16	\$55,000.00	\$65,427.00	320	3262
January 23	\$55,000.00	\$57,103.00	350	3327
January 30	\$55,000.00	\$56,447.00	343	3614
February 6	\$55,000.00	\$81,054.00	365	3282
February 13	\$55,000.00	\$68,792.00	339	3479
February 20	\$55,000.00	\$72,209.00	400	3431

GIVING TRENDS

(July 1, 2004– February 20, 2005)

Total Given \$2,190,102.53
Households 1801
Average Giving \$156.91/mo
 per household

MONTHLY BUDGET VS. ACTUAL GIVING



MARS HILL CHURCH EXPANSION

The need for another building

Seattle is among the least church-ed cities in our nation, and we want to see as many people as possible here become disciples of Jesus Christ. Our church has grown by over 60% a year since its inception in 1998. If the same rate continues we may have 10,000 people in the next 3 years. Even if it slowed to 25% a year, we would have nearly 10,000 people in 5 years. In either case, our existing facility just can't support long-term growth.

Consequently, the Elders have spent a lot of time studying, praying and discussing what's next for our church. Knowing that our facility can only realistically accommodate

a church of around 4,000 – 5,000, we have been forced to wrestle with the question: what's next? After researching and praying through various options, we've decided it is most prudent to purchase an additional facility in the immediate vicinity of our existing location; God has opened the door for us to purchase a building 1 block north of the church.

Please pray for wisdom, God's favor, financial provision, and the hearts of so many people that need Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for more information at services in the coming weeks, and an article with detailed plans in next month's Vox Pop. If you have urgent questions, email, pastorjamie@marshillchurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Friday & Easter Sunday Services

This year the holiday weekend comes a little early at the end of March! Join us for one of two sobering services on Good Friday at 6pm (with childcare) or 8pm as we reflect on our Savior's agonizing sacrifice. Then, join us early for our "nearly-sunrise" service on Sunday morning to celebrate Christ's resurrection! The 11.15 and 5pm services will likely be overflowing as people bring friends and family, and even the 9am may be bursting at the seams; we're asking all able members to attend the special 7.30am morning service or the 7.15pm evening service.



Children's Ministry

Thanks are to God for the amazing growth of Mars Hill Church! Not only is the congregation growing, but the number of children within the church, as well. Along with this spectacular increase comes the need for more teams within the children's ministry. The foundation of Children's Ministry has been developed, but now, with the rapid amplification in children, more help are needed.

Children's Ministry needs more volunteers at all service, especially for Wednesday nights for the spring schedule which starts in April. The time crunch makes this the most pressing need. The next volunteer training is March 13th at 11:15. [The meeting will be held at the CM check in area.] Still needed is a communications liaison that can get the word out for CM, as well as more musicians and song leaders (singers) to play at the beginning of each service are needed. Decorating team members and a coordinator to transform the CM area each season, and craft team members who create crafts that go along with the lessons every other Sunday are also in demand.

Jericho Junction, the primary outlet for children on Wednesday evenings, needs creative servants: more actors, actresses, and puppeteers, as well as a sound person and

director for next season. All these roles greatly glorify God through His ministry to the precious young hearts of Mars Hill.

If God is leading you to volunteer in this venue, contact Tami McKinley, Children's Ministry Assistant, Mars Hill Church. tami@marshillchurch.org

7:15pm Service Crew

Do you attend our new 7:15pm service? Be a hospitable host to those who are coming to hear about Jesus and worship alongside us. Jay Edmark needs more volunteers to help with cleanup after this service. Email jay@marshillchurch.org

Become a Membership Interviewer

Maintain the health of our church by connecting with those seeking membership.

This ministry has evolved to be even more crucial to the body as we not only seek to get membership prospects involved and connected, but also take on the role of a shepherd by listening to the church history, individual theology and personal testimony of those who have taken steps to becoming a member. Right now, we are in great need of women interviewers to help with the high volume of women interviewees waiting to be interviewed. We are not, however, discouraging men or couples from joining. The more, the merrier! Please contact Gigi for more details - gigim@marshillchurch.org

The Breakfast Club (Emilio not included)

Volunteers needed for the Breakfast Club (formerly Breakfast with Bubba) on Saturday mornings at 10am. This is a great ministry for new church goers to get connected with our church. Ephesians 4:12, 13 & Ephesians 2:10, 11. Contact jay@marshillchurch.org



Support and Recovery Groups

Mars Hill Church offers other support ministries and recovery groups for dealing with the pains of living life in a fallen world. Support and Recovery Groups include: Sanctuary (loss of child/miscarriage), The Wounded Heart (for men and women dealing with past sexual abuse), Women's Recovery (general), Alcohol Recovery for Men, Recovery for Sexual Addiction (men), and Homosexuality transformation. For more information about Mars Hill Recovery Groups, e-mail: recovery@marshillchurch.org

Regulate!

Security volunteers are needed for all the Sunday services and especially Wednesday night during classes. As our attendance increases people have to park further away. This means we need more security volunteers in order to keep an eye on all their possessions. We have lately had a few instances of break-ins and would like to show a presence in order to prevent future occurrences. Contact jay@marshillchurch.org

Paint Some Walls

Easter will bring a lot of visitors to our church home. Volunteers are needed to help painter around the church. You know, spruce things up a bit. Jay is also trying to set up a regular Saturday paint crew that will also get free breakfast. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? Well then go ahead and email jay@marshillchurch.org and let him know you're in.

Concert Volunteers Wanted

Bubba Jennings needs help at the Pillar & Grits concert March 11. Email bubba@marshillchurch.org

Full descriptions can be found on those calendar dates at www.marshillchurch.org – just click on the calendar and go to month/march in the new window – ticket and descriptions are available and you may edit/adjust as you see fit. Just add that we need faithful members to gift their time to offer hospitality to our guests.



Covenant is committed to:

- Teaching biblical truths on topics related to singleness
- Providing instruction on the biblical process of courtship
- Creating a safe environment for the unmarried to meet who call Mars Hill home

Our next monthly Covenant sponsored event will be March 18, watch for details and check out our calendar at www.marshillchurch.org/covenant for more events near you!

Finally: a Reason to Read the Seattle Times

Now every four to five weeks the greater Puget Sound area can be preached to by Pastor Mark without even having to leave their home! Pastor Mark is being delivered to your very door in the Seattle Times Religion section as a rotating columnist about every month or so. His latest article was in the February 19th edition of the Seattle Times along side a Roman Catholic, a Muslim, a Jew and a mainline Protestant. Keep your eyes open and grab your subscriptions now!

march

for more information, visit www.marshallchurch.org

weekly this season

sunday services

9:00 am, 11:15 am, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm
(children's ministry at all services except 7:15 pm)

gospel class (wed at 6:45pm - qtr starts april 6)

The first point of connection for those considering Mars Hill as their church home. Content of the class covers our core values, biblical theology, our mission and how to participate with us spiritually and practically.

capstone classes (qtr starts april 3 - sun afternoons at 1:20 & 3:00, & wed evenings at 6:45)
Christian education classes are free of charge.

[proxy] (teens at MH, wednesday evenings)
[proxy] is our midweek ministry for junior high and high school students, including music, teaching, discussion and prayer.

jericho junction (wednesday evenings)
Biblical truths and values are uniquely presented on Wednesday nights through the use of puppets and live costumed characters.

“the breakfast club” (10:00 am saturday mornings at Mars Hill Church)
Join our Saturday volunteer team for breakfast together prayer and fellowship, cleaning and preparing our church for worship the following day. Contact jay@marshallchurch.org for more details.

also in march & early april

Good Friday

6pm & 8pm

Easter Services

7:30am, 9am, 11:15am, 5pm & 7:15pm

paradox concerts (Always All Ages)

We're pleased to offer Mars Hill facilities as a very practical, hospitable outreach to our local music scene. Check out www.theparadox.org for more information on concerts.

March 11, 6:00p.m. - Cost: \$16

Bands: PILLAR & Grits

March 29, 8:00p.m. - Cost \$7

Bands: Xiu Xiu, The Dead Science & Bonus

April 1, 8:00p.m. - Cost \$10

Bands: IDA, The Stares & Robert Deeble

April 14, TBD

Bands: TBA

April 16, 8:00p.m. - Cost \$10

Bands: DEERHOOF, Why?, Warbler, Le Ton Mite

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
march 6 MH Outdoors Snow Camping	7	8	9 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	10	11 Paradox Concert <i>PILLAR & Grits</i>	12 The Breakfast Club MH Outdoors & MH Covenant <i>Rainier Snow Day</i>
13 Sunday Services Capstone Classes	14	15	16 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	17	18 Film & Theology <i>"Shaun of the Dead"</i>	19 The Breakfast Club MH Outdoors <i>Shuksan Backcountry Skiing</i> MH Covenant Event
20 Sunday Services	21	22	23	24	25 Good Friday Services 6pm (childcare) 8pm (no childcare)	26 The Breakfast Club
27 Easter Services 7:30am 9:00am 11:15am 5:00pm 7:15pm--no childcare	28	29 Paradox Concert <i>Xiu Xiu, The Dead Science and Bonus</i>	30	31	april 1 Paradox Concert <i>IDA, The Stares & Robert Deeble</i>	2 The Breakfast Club MH Outdoors <i>Spring Skiing</i>
3 Sunday Services Capstone Classes	4	5	6 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	7	8 Reach the Heart Experience	9 Reach the Heart Experience MH Outdoors <i>Kayaking</i>
10 Sunday Services Capstone Classes	11	12	13 Gospel Class Capstone Classes [proxy] Jericho Junction	14 Paradox Concert TBA	15 Film & Theology <i>"To End All Wars"</i>	16 The Breakfast Club Paradox Concert <i>DEERHOOF</i> MH Outdoors <i>Hike</i>

film & theology (monthly)

February 11, 6:45 pm (free)

“SHAUN OF THE DEAD”

What do blue collar workers, ex-girlfriends, best friends and zombies have in common? What do they have in common with the gospel? Join us to laugh, to be mortified, and to feed your brain (not literally). *Next month: “To End All Wars”.*

covenant ministry

Our next monthly Coveant sponsored event will be March 19 at 6pm - watch for deails and check out our calendar at www.marshallchurch.org/covenant for more events near you!

mars hill outdoors

contact each event leader for details on these and other outdoor events!

March 5 & 6

Snow Camping, TBD
Jim Mallory – jrmallory@hotmail.com

March 12

Rainier Snow Day, Mt. Rainier
Nancyjean Tripp – jersey_climbgirl@yahoo.com
Rick James – denali_2000@yahoo.com

March 19

Shuksan Backcountry Skiing, Mt. Shuksan
Jim Mallory – jrmallory@hotmail.com

April 2

Spring Skiing, Snoqualmie
Rick James – denali_2000@yahoo.com

April 9

Kayaking, Lake Washington
Jeannie Fleming – jfleming@arscentia.com
Thom Booth - thombooth@emsoln.com

April 16

Hike, Tiger Mountain
Rick James – denali_2000@yahoo.com